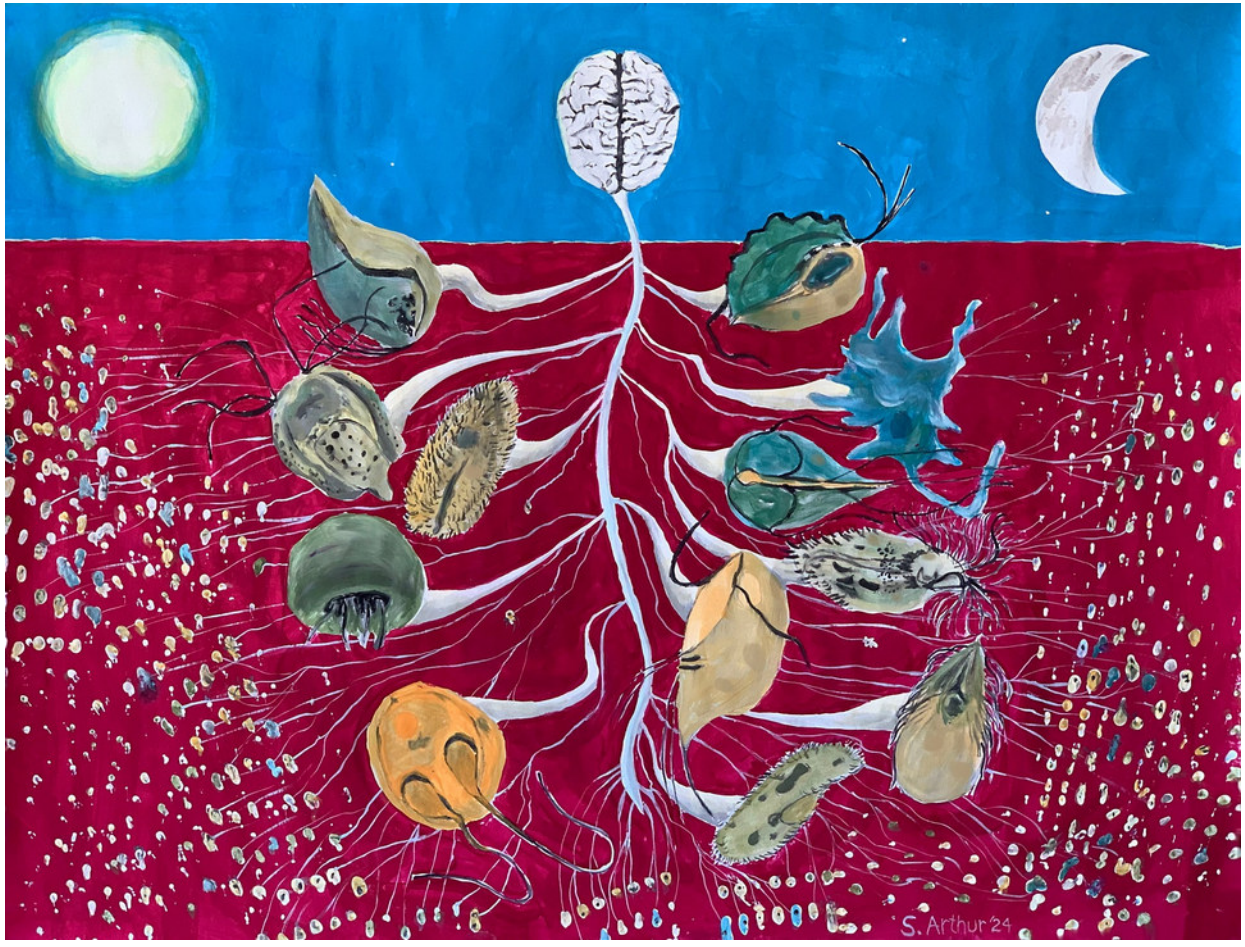
Stephen X. Arthur



MARVELS

book one

Canadian painter **Stephen X. Arthur** is a former experimental/fine-art filmmaker/animator, screenwriter, and technical/scientific writer. He has an MFA degree in film production (U. Southern California) and an MSc degree in neuroscience (U. British Columbia). As an INTJ personality type, his strength is introverted intuition; in later life he became an intuitive painter. He creates Surrealist Symbolist paintings, where the spontaneous figurative images often produce a kind of cinematic narrative with unexpected meanings and layers of ambiguity that make people think and feel beyond their conventional assumptions.

> "While art movements have tended historically to be about the beauty or quality of the object produced, Surrealism produces art as a means rather than an end. It differs from standard avant-gardes in its refusal of originality and newness for their own sake. The [standard] avant-garde pushes the boundaries of aesthetics toward ever renewed expressive forms; Surrealism tends instead to use forms, new or traditional, as tools with which to express a particular spirit. This spirit is above all one of dissidence and defiance, subtended by a belief in the inexhaustible capacity for wonder that resides in each of us, here and now."
>
> — Mark Polizzotti, *Why Surrealism Matters*, 2024,
> Yale University Press.

FRONT COVER
163 *The Salience Network (Emblem)* 2024

BACK COVER
66 *The Monoliths and Their New Visitor* 2022

Presented in chronological sequence as indicated by the number given in each painting title. Painted May 2021 through January 2025.

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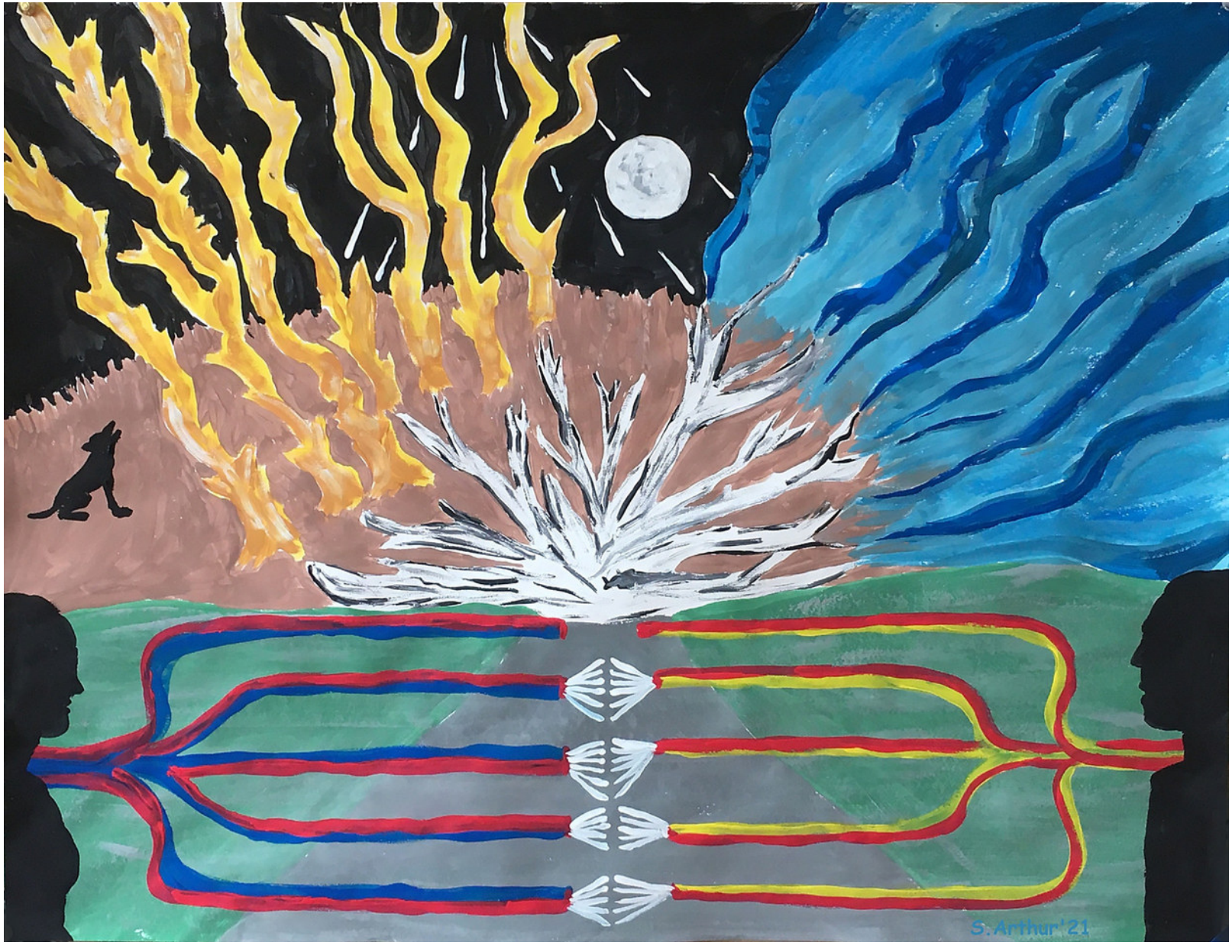
10 **Anxiety 1: Sensory Overload**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Graham Thompson, Victoria, B.C., CAN



15 **The Connecting Scenery**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

16 **The Flower-Bud Embryos**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Joyce Arthur, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

19 **Libido**

2021, tempera on joined paper, 26 x 40 in.

20 The Jungle Witnesses

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Rob Wilde, Gibsons, B.C., CAN

22 The Embryo's Imperative

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

23 Yellow Creatures on Blue

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Mark and Beverley Ellis, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

24 Celebrating What is to Come

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

25 The Blue and Yellow Spill Response

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

26 The Alien Encounter

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

29 The Migrating Whales

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Aimee Sturley, Owen Sound, Ontario, CAN

27 **Woman Over All**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

28 **Trying to Purge Memories**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

30 **Evolving Icons**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection “White Angel”, Italy

31 **Straining to See**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

33 **The Circus of Liberation**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection “White Angel”, Italy

32 Wonders on the Road

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

34 Floating Figures During the Outburst

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Rob Wilde, Gibsons, B.C., CAN

35 **Pink Titillation**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

36 **Out of the Ink**

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

37 **Primal Exposure**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Sam Seatt, Calgary, Alberta, CAN

39 **Bringing Light**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

40 **The Rescuers**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

41 Protected Lovers

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Outsiders and Others Art Society, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

42 Sinking the Board of Directors

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Rob Wilde, Gibsons, B.C., CAN

43 **Sleep Deprivation**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

44 **The Banner**

2022, tempera on paper, 26 x 20 in.

45 **Discovering**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Dr. Pierre Zakarauskas, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

46 **Purification (Twin Heads)**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

47 **The Arrival**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Graham Thompson, Victoria, B.C., CAN

48 Fire and Water

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

49 The Signal (Consolation and Celebration)

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

50 The Lure of Surrealism

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

52 Swimming in Red

2021, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

51 **The Turquoise Curtain (A Show for the Mutants)**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

54 **Flight Paths, Paired**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

55 **Mobbing Predators and Defending Territory (Paths No. 2)**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

56 **This Violet World**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

57 **The Day of the Chameleon**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

59 **Ephemeral Beings**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Beverly Faryna, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

60 **Energy Totem**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

58 **The Fire Works**
(a.k.a. Fireworks with Stealth Bombers)

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

61 **In My Neighborhood, the Origin of Life (Nick Lane)**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

62 **Invisible Kingdom of Medical Suspense**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

63 **Pigfooter**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

64 **My Sleeping Machine**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Beverly Faryna, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

65 **The Star of Bethlehem, New York**

2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

66 **The Monoliths and Their New Visitor**

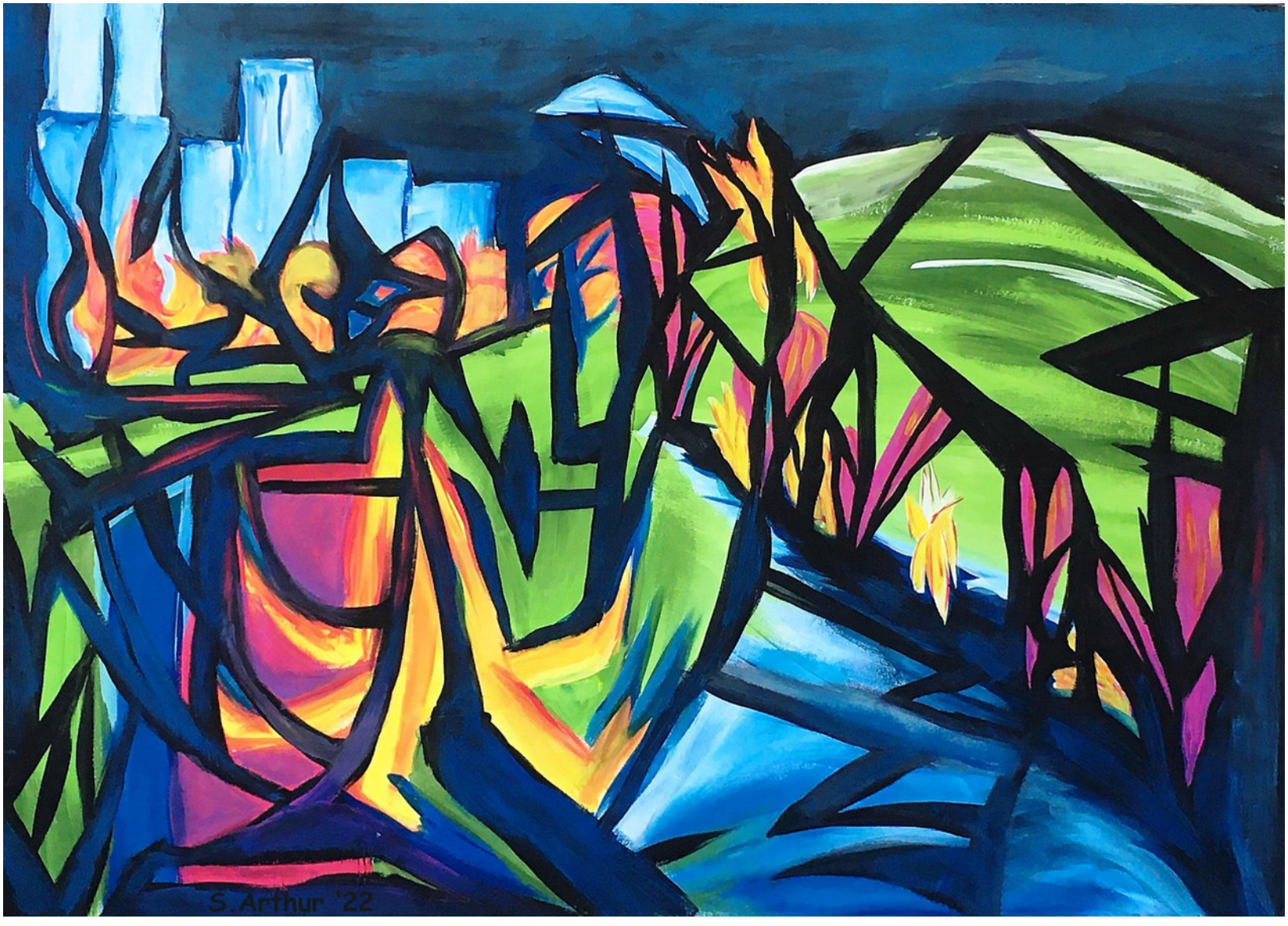
2022, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

67 **Underneath Night**

2022, tempera on board, 22 x 28 in.

68 **Garden of Awareness**

2022, tempera on board, 22 x 28 in.
Collection Tracy Martinsen, Langley, B.C., CAN



69 Overcoming

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.
Collection Kate L Brunger, New Westminster, B.C., CAN

71-72 **An Exorcism for Beverly's Vertigo (Diptych)**
Left panel: **Possessed**. Right panel: **Demon Trap**.

2022, tempera on paper and card, 28 x 39 in.

73 Electric Indigo Incubator

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

74 **Relief**

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.
Collection Outsiders and Others Art Society, Vancouver B.C., CAN

75 **The Blizzard of the World**

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

77 Enduring Head (Interchanging)

2022, tempera on canvas, 18 x 24 in.
Collection Joyce Arthur, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

79 **In the Teeth of Time**

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

78 Harvest Moon

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.
Collection Aimee Sturley, Owen Sound, Ontario, CAN

80 Late Ripeners

Tempera on canvas (reclaimed acrylic), 11 x 14 in.
Collection Joyce Arthur, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

81 The Future is in the Icons We Champion (Diptych)

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.
Collection Sam Seatt, Calgary, Alberta, CAN

82 **The Remains That Are Missed (Cross-Section)**

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

83 Emblem of Protection

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

85 Self-Parenting

2023, tempera on canvas (reclaimed acrylic) 12 x 16 in.

84 **The Flare-Up**

2022, tempera on card, 19.5 x 25.5 in.
Collection Mark and Beverley Ellis, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

86 **Holding It Together**

2023, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

87 Holding It Together No. 2

2023, tempera on canvas (reclaimed acrylic) 14 x 11 in.
Collection Joaquin Ayala, Burnaby, B.C., CAN

88 **Catch a Falling Star**

2023, tempera on canvas (reclaimed acrylic) 30 x 40 in.
Collection Joaquin Ayala, Burnaby, B.C., CAN

89 Energized Between (Yellow Assembly)

2023, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.
Collection Mark and Beverley Ellis, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

90 **Visions of Half-Sleep (Rorschach Test)**

2023, tempera on card, 24 x 19.5 in.

91 **Rewilding**
(a.k.a. Tails of a Nuclear Family,
a.k.a. The Biodiversity Convoy)

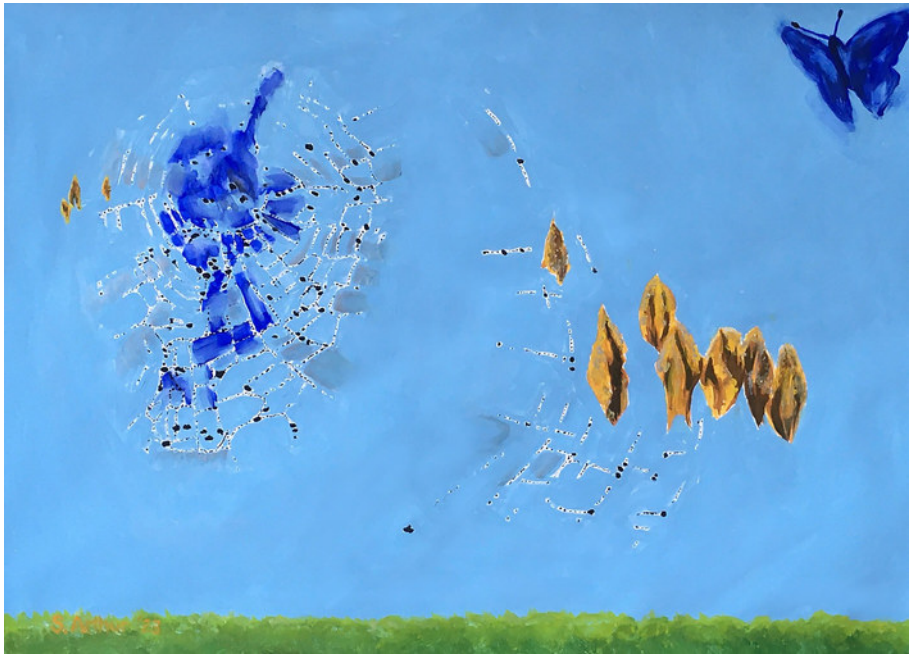
2023, tempera on card, 27.5 x 19.5 in.
Collection Outsiders and Others Art Society, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

92 Mélange (Happy Composition)

2023, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

93 Something in the Air

2023, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.



94 Significant Encounter

2023, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.
Collection Graham Thompson, Victoria, B.C., CAN

95 **The Family (Connecting Bones)**

2023, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.
Collection Sam Seatt, Calgary, Alberta, CAN

96 Exulting Over the Doors of Perception

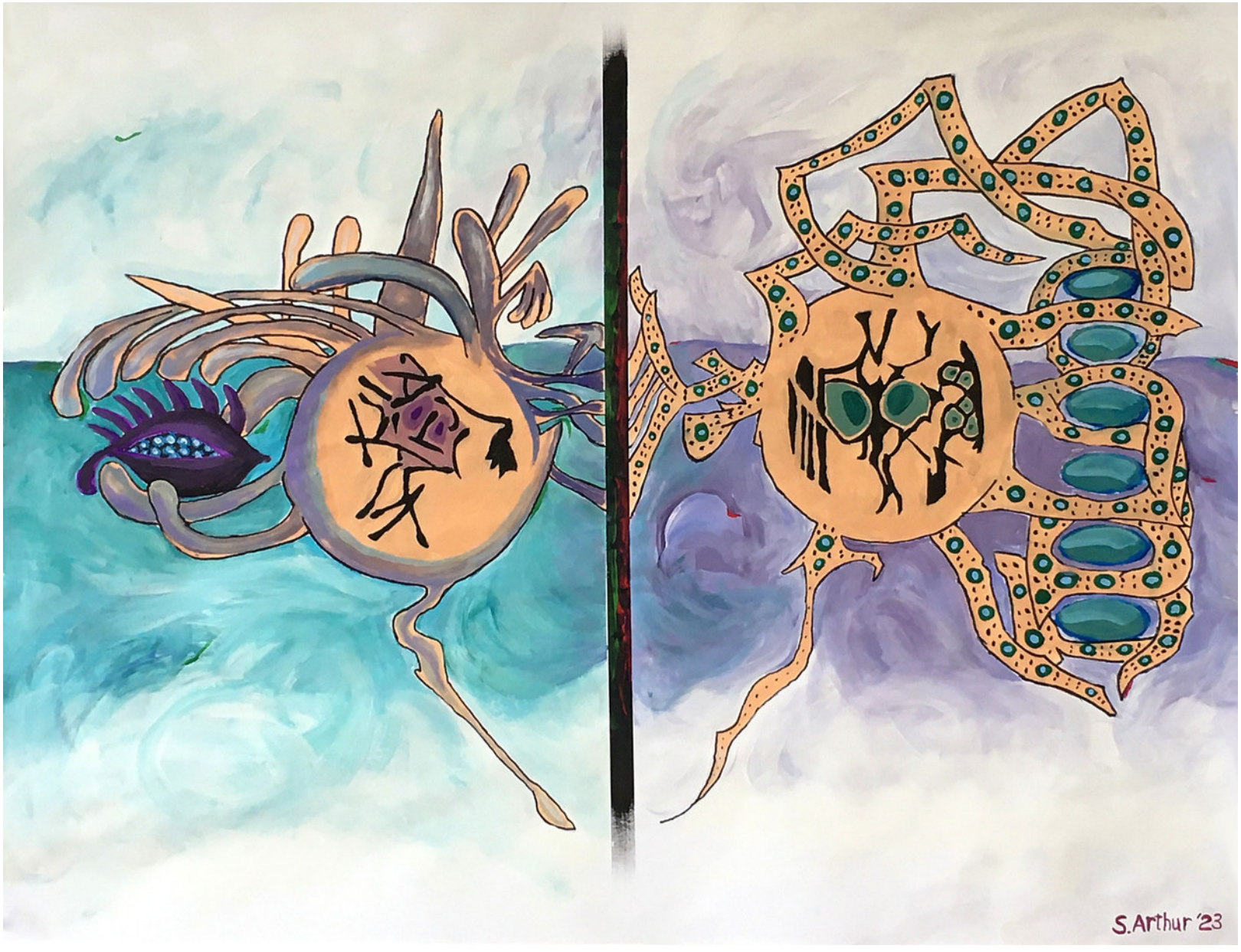
2023, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.
Collection Outsiders and Others Art Society, Vancouver B.C., CAN

97 **The Innocent Congregation (Land of Biomorphs)**

2023, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

101 **Self-Transformation**

2023, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Outsiders and Others Art Society, Vancouver B.C., CAN



102 **Ambivalent Designs**

2023, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

105 **Holding It Together No. 3**

2023, tempera on canvas, 14 x 11 in.
Collection Mark and Beverley Ellis, Vancouver B.C.

106 **The Goal**

2023, tempera on watercolor paper, 10 x 14 in.

107 **Letting It Go - Part 1**

2023, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

108 **Letting It Go - Part 2**

2023, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.
Collection Mark and Beverley Ellis, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

109 Letting It Go - Part 3

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.
Collection Joaquin Ayala, Burnaby, B.C., CAN

110 The Accidental Scaffold (Reconstruction No. 1)

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

111 Dancing in the Darkness (Reconstruction No. 2)

2023, tempera on watercolor paper, 10 x 14 in.
Collection Outsiders and Others Art Society, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

113 **Penetrating the Inner Sanctum**

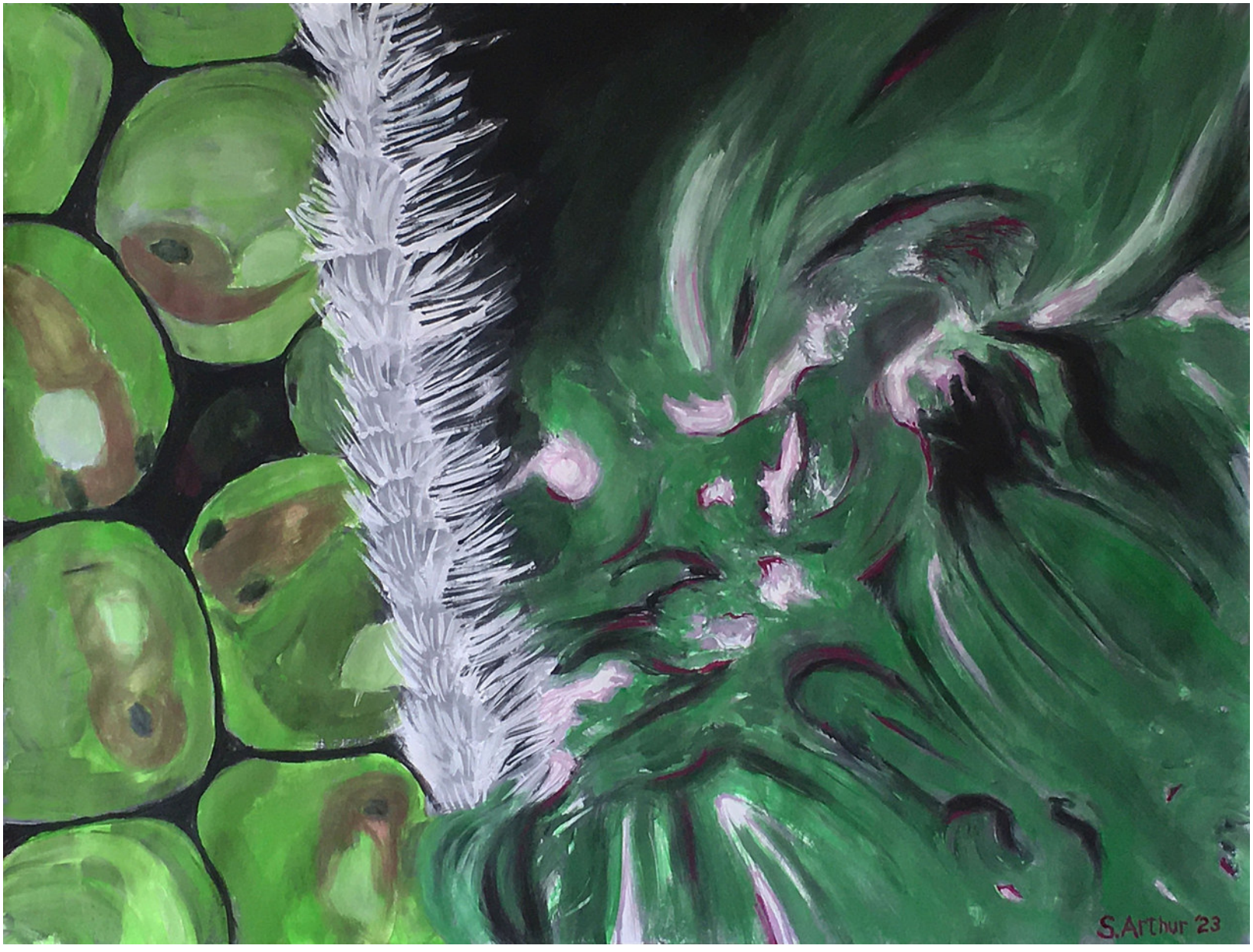
2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

114 Self-Portrait, Aug. 4, 2023

2023, tempera on watercolor paper, 9 x 12 in.
Collection Joaquin Ayala, Burnaby, B.C., CAN

115 The Hidden Monument

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.
Collection Outsiders and Others Art Society, Vancouver, B.C., CAN



116 Life Springs Eternal

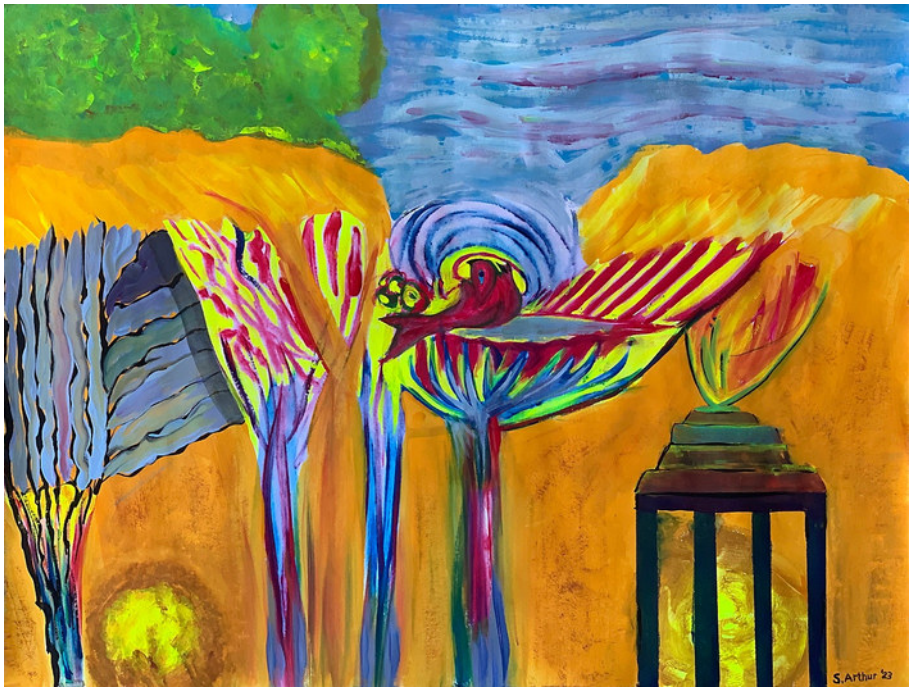
2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.
Collection Mattias Martens, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

117 Did I Request Thee, Maker, From My Clay to Mold Me Man?

2023, tempera on paper, 23 x 17.5 in.

118 Sea Change

2023, tempera on paper, 23 x 17.5 in.



119 The Bird Bath

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

120 Wild Type (Biodiversity)

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.
Collection Aimee Sturley, Owen Sound, Ontario, CAN

121 **United We Fall**

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.
Collection Outsiders and Others Art Society, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

122 Brown and Teal Sunscape

2023, tempera on card 19.5 x 27.5 in.

123 Coelacanthus bafflensis COMT-Val158Met

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.
Collection Rob Wilde, Gibsons, B.C., CAN

126 **Happy Birthday**

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

128 **Spilliage**

2023, tempera on canvas (reclaimed acrylic) 24 x 20 in.
Collection Joyce Arthur, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

129 **Life No. 1**

2023, tempera on watercolor paper, 9 x 12 in.

130 **Life No. 2**

2023, tempera on paper, 23 x 17.5 in.

132 Lava Festival

2023, tempera on canvas (reclaimed acrylic), 24 x 20 in.
Collection Kate L Brunger, New Westminster, B.C., CAN

133 **Elevation**

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

134 Idiopathic Abstraction

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

135 Balancer No. 1

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

138 **Game of Equilibrium (Balancer Sequence #4)**

2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

140 **Original Sins (Array No. 1, Fossils)**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

141 **Specimens (Array No. 2)**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

139 **Gestation of the Unknown**

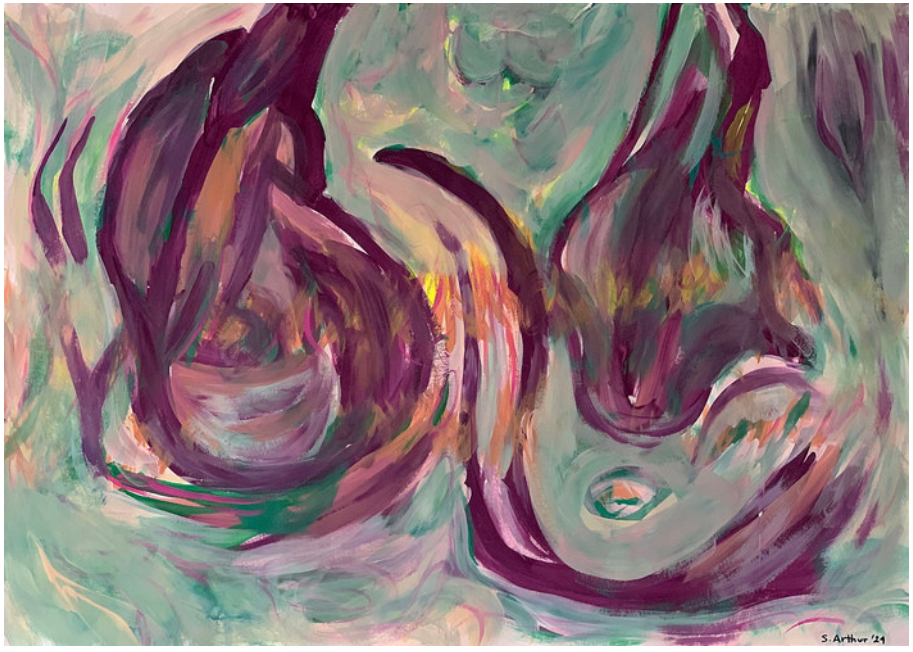
2023, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

143 **Swimming Hole (Action Painting)**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

144 **Abstract Expression No. 1**

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.



145 **Abstract Expression No. 2**

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

146 **Abstract Expression No. 3**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

147 Symphony (Action Painting)

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

148 Not All Black and White (Action Painting)

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

150 **Swoon**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

151 **Going with the Flow**

2024, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

154 The GREAT SILENCE

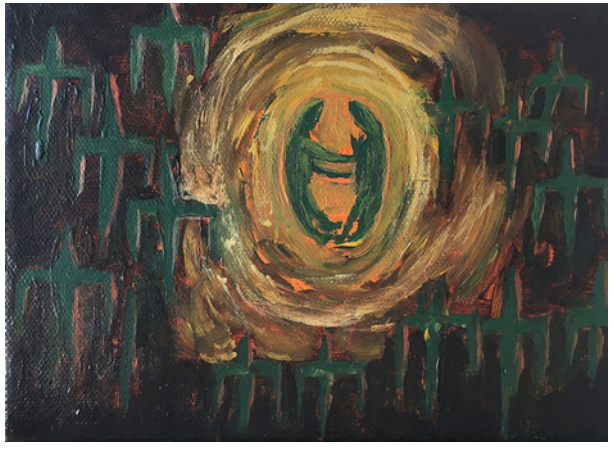
2024, acrylic on canvas, 18 x 24 in.
Collection Dr. Pierre Zakarauskas,
Vancouver, B.C., CAN

153 The Flower's Nightmare

2024, acrylic on canvas, 18 x 24 in.

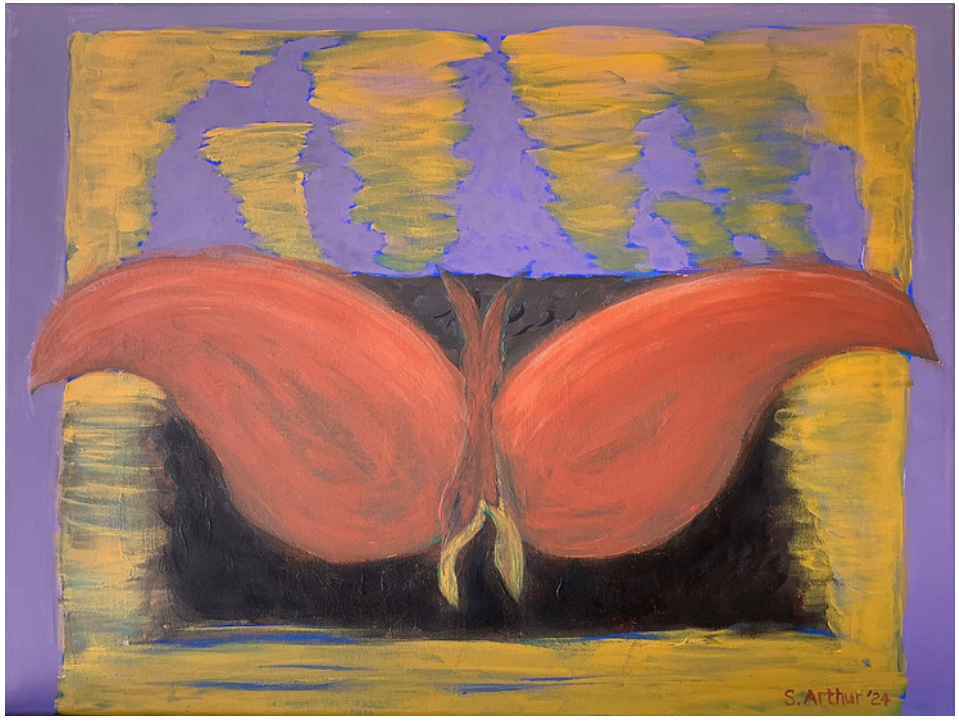
155 **Protected Lovers No. 2**

2024, acrylic on canvas board, 5 x 7 in.



156 **Protected Lovers No. 3**

2024, acrylic on canvas board, 5 x 7 in.



157 **Escape (Red Bird)**

2024, acrylic/tempera/gesso mix on canvas 18 x 24 in.
Collection Joyce Arthur, Vancouver, B.C., CAN

158 **Disappearing Act No. 1 (Protist)**

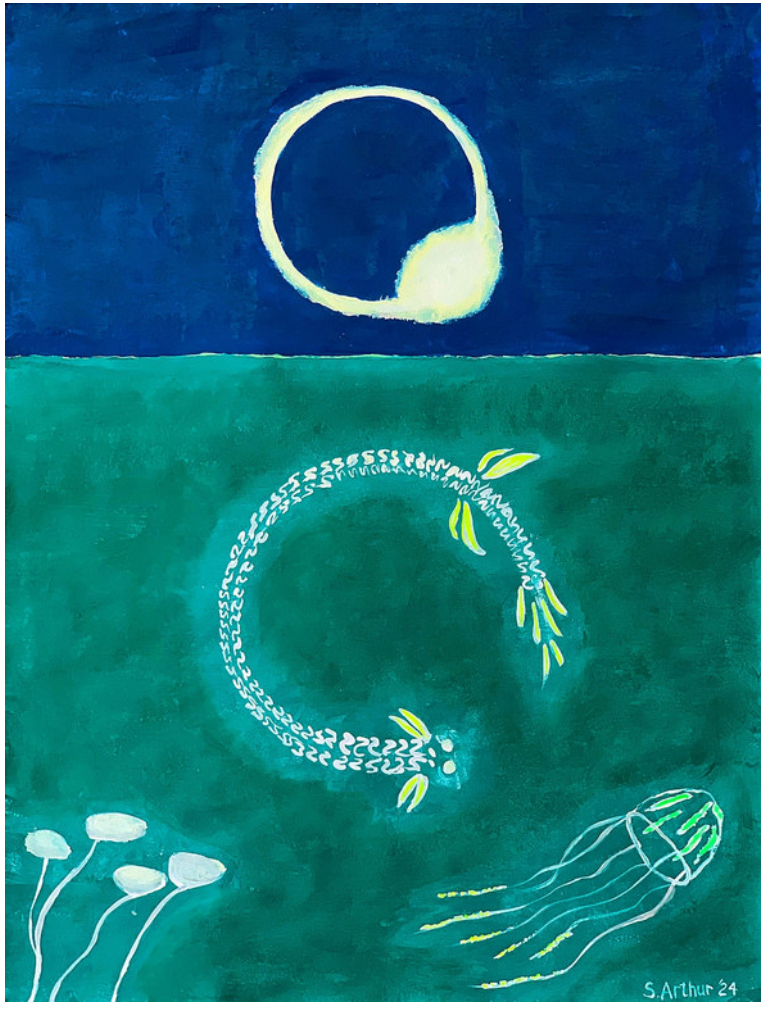
2024, tempera on paper, 20 x 26 in.

159 **Disappearing Act No. 2 (Ocean)**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

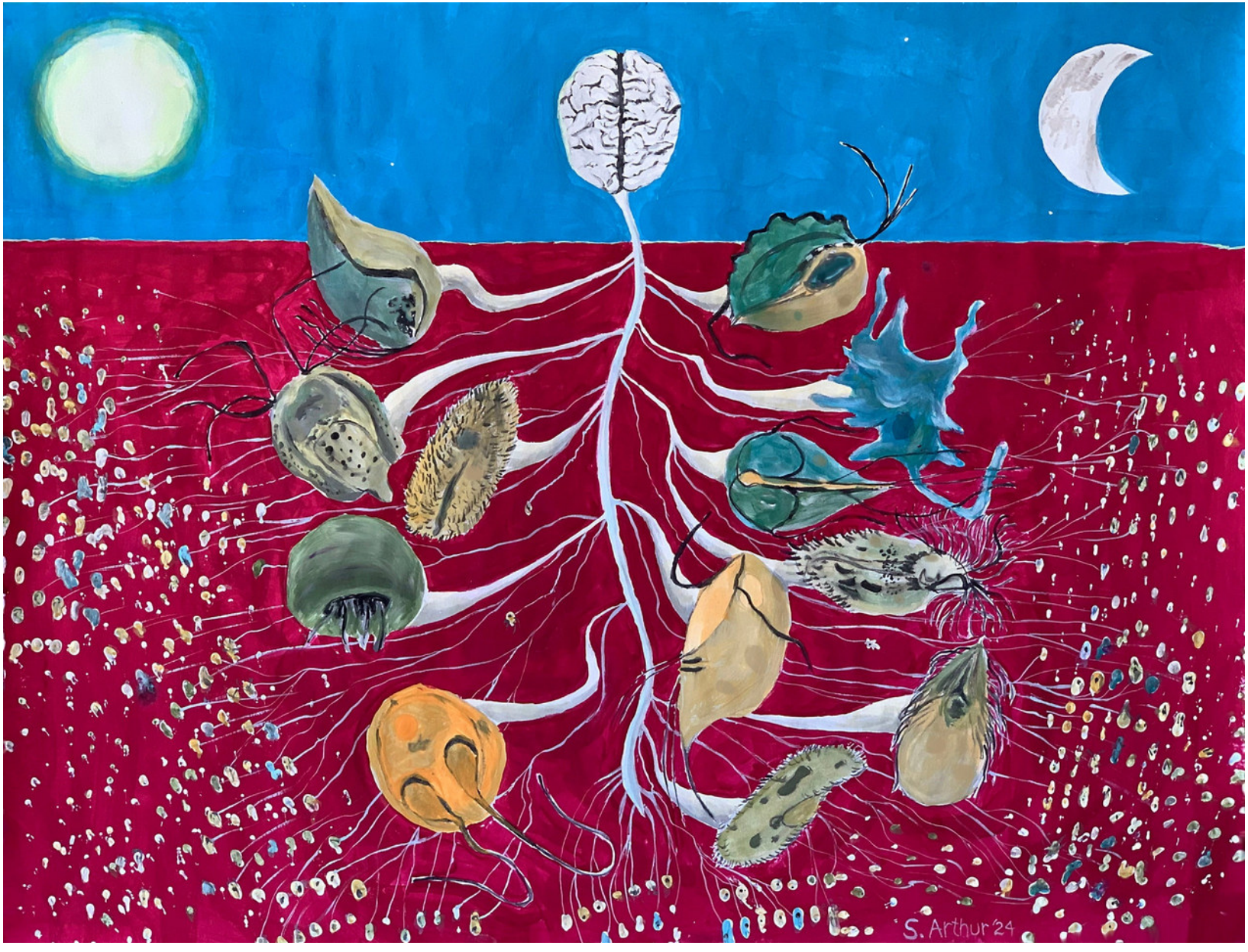
160 **Disappearing Act No. 3 (Voidpunk)**

2024, tempera on paper, 23 x 17.5 in.



161 **Disappearing Act No. 4 (Solar Eclipse)**

2024, tempera on paper, 23 x 17.5 in.



163 **The Salience Network (Emblem)**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

164 **Shadow Play**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

165 **Inner Sanctuary (Blue and Yellow)**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

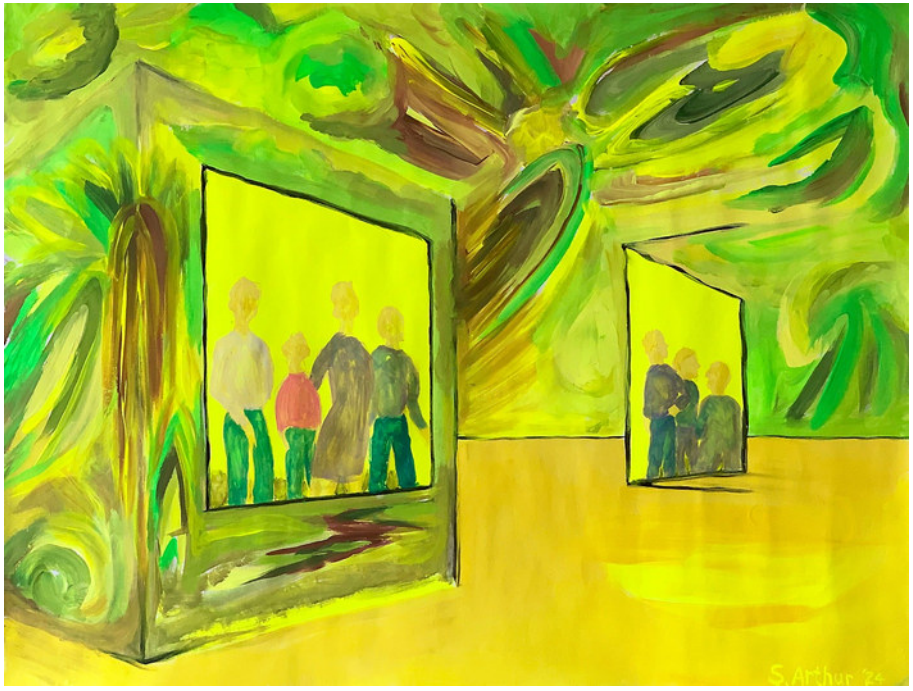
< Here we encounter a microcosm teeming with the primal vitality of unicellular organisms. They are the embodiment of life's most basic units, each a sovereign entity, yet paradoxically, part of a larger whole: a visual allegory for the tension between individuality and collectivism. The brain, with its neural tendrils, represents the cognitive effort to impose order on the chaos of sensory stimuli —a quest that mirrors the existential plight of modern civilization, as it grapples with the fragmentation of shared truths and the cacophony of individual perspectives. This “emblem” provokes us to ponder the myriad ways in which life’s disparate threads are woven into the fabric of consciousness, not only as a biological reality but also as a symbolic crucible of our times.

166 **Fire and Ice**

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

168 **Sunday Morning (Fluorescent)**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.



169 **Oh, Say, Can You See? (Red, White, and Blue)**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in

170 **Everything is Weird... and Everyone is Wrecked (Diptych)**

2024, tempera on board, 28 x 44 in.

171 **The Ephemeral Kiss**

2024, tempera on board 22 x 27.5 in.

172 **Last Gasp (N.D.E.)**

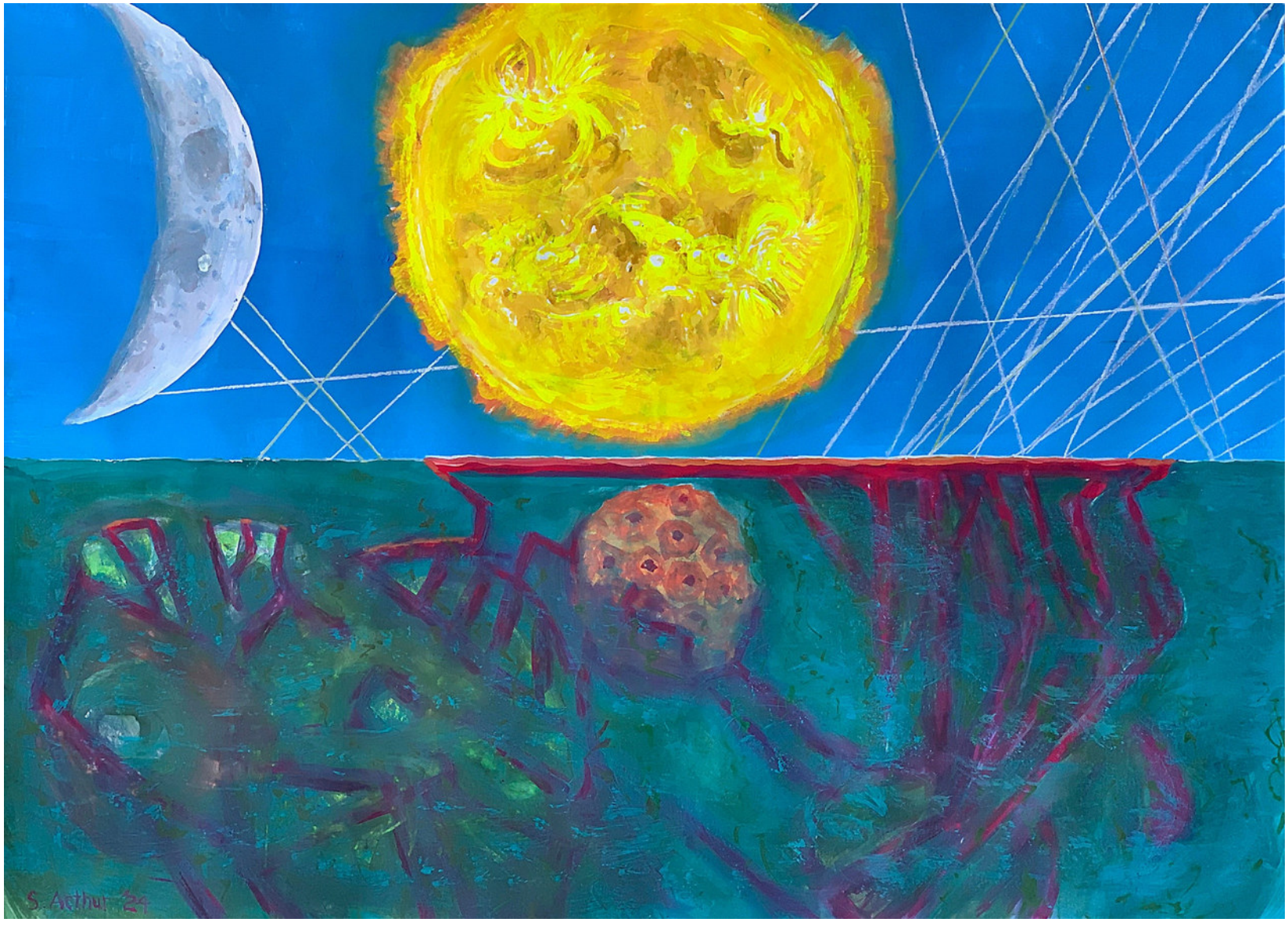
2024, tempera on board 22 x 28 in.

173 **Ancient Gaze**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

175 **Visitation**

2024, tempera on board 22 x 28 in.



181 **Life Giver, Life Taker (Corona with Satellite Trails)**

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

183 **Nothing Personal**

2024, tempera on card, 27.5 x 19.5 in.

185 **The Harvest**

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

186 **The Impossible Performance**

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

187 **Horned Melon**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

188 **Asperitas**

2024, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

190 **Old Man Clinging**

2024, tempera on paper, 17.5 x 23 in.

191 **Hero's Journey**

2025, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

192 **Kaleidoscopic**

2025, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

193 **Dream Weaver**

2025, tempera on card, 19.5 x 27.5 in.

"The true cultural expression of our time is often a solitary voice, which refuses to be drowned out by the cacophony of the Zeitgeist."

— Wendy Newbold Patterson,
The Unheralded Artists of BC - 2